

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 16 ANKARA 000999

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [PREF](#) [TU](#) [TIP](#) [IN](#) [TURKEY](#)

SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, February 1-15, 2006

1. In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following news articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial Embassy translation.

2. Published by Hurriyet on Wednesday, February 1:

TITLE: 17 arrested in "Orkide"

BEGIN TEXT: Seventeen out of 21 people detained in Operation "Orkide," were formally taken into custody by the Karasu Regional duty court. Among the suspects are six Georgians, all charged with forcing prostitution, aiding and abetting, and having marijuana and a gun. Three arrested police officers, Y.O. (41), N.G. (34), and H.T. (50), as well as Jandarma petty officer M.C., were set free after giving statements. END TEXT.

3. Published by Yeni Safak on Wednesday, February 1:

TITLE: Have you seen my mother campaign started

BEGIN TEXT: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has begun a campaign called "Have You Seen My Mother?" aimed at children born without fathers due to prostitution. The goal is to make men who agree to be with these women aware that these women were brought to Turkey by human traffickers. Officials said that there are many callers to the human trafficking hotline who noted, "I do not care about the mothers, but think of their kids," and that one of every three women forced into prostitution was a mother. The organization cast children from the old Soviet Union whose mothers were forced into prostitution. END TEXT.

4. Reported by Reuters on Wednesday, February 1:

TITLE: IOM launches new anti-trafficking campaign

BEGIN TEXT: Ankara, 1 February (IRIN) - The International Office for Migration (IOM) on Tuesday launched a new public information campaign in Turkey aimed at raising awareness of the impact of human trafficking on children and families.

One out of three women trafficked to Turkey - one of the major destination points for trafficking women from Central Asia for sexual exploitation - is a mother with children, according to the IOM.

The centerpiece of the campaign is a television advertisement to be broadcast on national channels throughout the country, which straddles both Europe and Asia. The advertisement, entitled, "Have You Seen My Mother?" is focused on four children from the former Soviet Union in search of mothers trafficked to Turkey. A nationwide print campaign is also being launched.

"Trafficking takes an enormous toll, not just on the women and girls who have been trafficked to Turkey, but on the children and families they are forced to leave behind," Marielle Sander Lindstrom, head of the IOM mission in Turkey, said in a statement. "Families and communities are paying an enormous price."

The launch of the campaign coincided with the release of a new report on major trafficking trends in Turkey. Among the key findings of the report, entitled "2005: Turkey, Trafficking and Trends," are that more than one-third of women trafficked to Turkey are mothers with children and that illegal profits from trafficking top more than US \$1 billion annually.

According to the report, some 470 individuals were identified as trafficked to Turkey in 2005. Of the 220 victims assisted by the IOM for repatriation, 17 percent were from Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

But this number is believed to be just a tip of the iceberg, or as little as 10 percent of the total.

Experts note that Central Asia is a growing region of origin for human trafficking. "There is trafficking of women, mainly to the Gulf States, but also to South Korea, Turkey, Greece, Western Europe, and countries in Southeast Asia, such as Thailand and Malaysia. The main country of origin at this stage is Uzbekistan. This is [not surprising] as it has the largest population, followed by Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and then Kazakhstan," Katerina Badilova, IOM trafficking officer in Almaty, told IRIN earlier.

However, estimating numbers of those trafficked out of Central Asia is extremely difficult as no reliable statistics exist. Some observers say that every year up to 10,000 people, mainly young women destined for the sex trade, are taken from the region against their will or under false pretenses. Research on human trafficking is also thin on the ground, making assessments of the extent of the problem difficult.

Every year, more than 4 million people globally become victims of human trafficking in what has become a business generating between \$8 billion and \$10 billion to criminal syndicates.

The IOM's new anti-trafficking campaign, coordinated by the Turkish government, includes increased public awareness activities, stepped up training for law enforcement and medical, psychological and direct assistance to trafficked individuals.

The US government is funding the project to the tune of \$600,000 with \$100,000 worth of co-funding from the Turkish government. The Italian and Swedish governments also provide major support for IOM counter-trafficking programs. END TEXT.

15. Published by Radikal on Wednesday, February 1:

TITLE: Money involved in the slave market

BEGIN TEXT: Those who say that they spent the night with a Russian girl actually are participating in a market that earns \$3.6 billion annually.

Most of the foreign women who are marketed in Turkey are earning \$765,000 annually for their pimps, who are of the same citizenry.

These women are forced into sex with 15-20 people a day. Thirty-six percent of them carry venereal disease and eight percent suffer from brain damage. Forty percent of these women are mothers.

According to the IOM's 2005 "Turkey: Human Trafficking Trade and Trends" report, \$3.6 billion in illegal money is earned annually in Turkey from human trafficking. The centers for this trade are Istanbul and Antalya.

According to the IOM report, which was published yesterday, the IOM identified 243 victims in Turkey and 226 women who were already sent back to their countries. It went on that 31 percent of these women were from Ukraine, 29 percent from Moldova, 13 percent from Russia, eight percent from Kyrgyzstan, five percent from Romania and five percent from Uzbekistan.

The towns which are centers for human trafficking and where the victims were found were: Istanbul (33 percent); Antalya (25 percent), Ankara (16 percent) and Mersin (5 percent).

Women who become victims of human trafficking are forced to have sex with 15-20 men a day. They earn \$2,250 a day and \$765,000 annually for their pimps.

In Turkey 469 victims were identified in 2005 and the money earned from them was \$360 million. The total number of victims is expected to be ten times higher than this. With this estimate, one predicts that around \$3.6 billion is earned from human trafficking.

Victims are lured in four percent of the cases by citizens of the same country. Nine percent of the illegal trade is conducted by Turkey, the rest by the Russians.

Forty percent of the victims are mothers and they are under social and economic pressure to take care of their children. Most of the women (55 percent) who are brought to Turkey are between 18-24 years of age, and 24 percent are between 25 and 30, while three percent are between 14 and 17.

From January to June 2005, seven traffickers were convicted and sent to prison in Turkey, but authorities

did not disclose anything about the actual imprisonment term.

Seven percent of the victims are university graduates, 28 percent high school graduates, and 50 percent middle school graduates.

One-third of the victims face the danger of never being a mother again since their reproductive organs are badly damaged and 36 percent has a venereal disease. Eight percent had brain damage.

IOM Mission Chief Marielle Sander-Lindstrom said that victims of human trafficking definitely were not prostitutes. She noted that these women were forced into the sex trade against their own will and termed them as modern age slaves.

She pointed to the percentage of those victims who were mothers and said, "These women are under greater risk because they have to earn money to look after their children. Human trafficking has two dimensions. It first affects women who are victims and their children."

The IOM, along with the MFA, yesterday inaugurated a campaign called "Have You Seen My Mother?" in order to promote the 157 hotline. The public will be informed on the issue in order to reach the women who are victims of human trafficking. END TEXT.

16. Published by Hurriyet on Wednesday, February 1:

TITLE: Women who come to practice prostitution are educated

BEGIN TEXT: There were interesting points brought up in the report on prostitution and human trafficking by the International Office for Migration. The most important one is that these women are educated.

It was determined that seven percent of the women who were duped into coming to Turkey and then forced into prostitution are university graduates, 28 percent high school graduates, and 50 percent middle school graduates.

Other interesting points include:

Thirty-one percent of the women who have fallen into the human traffickers trap are Ukrainian citizens. The countries of Moldova (29 percent), Russia (13 percent), the Kyrgyz Republic (8 percent), Romania (5 percent) and Uzbekistan (5 percent) follow.

Most of the women (33 percent) are worked in Istanbul. Other cities include Antalya (25 percent), Ankara (16 percent) and Mersin (5 percent).

Seventy-four percent of the victims were trapped in the prostitution trap by their fellow citizens. Nine percent of the traffickers are Turkish and the remainder Russian.

Fifty-five percent of the women brought to Turkey are between 18-24 years of age, 24 percent from 25-30 and three percent from 14-17.

Thirty-six percent of the women have venereal diseases, while 8 percent have damage to the brain.

Prostitution turns over 3.6 billion dollars.

Marielle Sander-Lindstrom, Chief of Mission of IOM Turkey, said that the earnings of trafficked women in Turkey are 3.6 billion dollars.

In the organization's report, "2005 Turkey, Trafficking and Trends," last year 469 foreign women were trapped into trafficking rings, but estimates were that the real number was ten times that amount. According to Lindstrom, 226 women were sent back to their home countries. It was noted that one in three trafficked women is a mother. END TEXT.

17. Reported by Sabah on Friday, February 3:

TITLE: Prostitution gangs like technology

BEGIN TEXT: Due to the foreign prostitutes who have taken over Istanbul's Aksaray, Laleli, Yenikapi and Beyoglu regions, Turkish prostitutes have recently gone to cooperative apartment housing. According to the Security Directorate, prostitution rings prefer high-rise buildings in Atakoy, Atasehir, Halkali and Basaksehir.

Living in these high-rises ensures that the rings can do their work and not be known by neighbors. And the prostitution rings use the latest technology. By positioning security cameras at entrances and on the street, the prostitute can see when there is a raid and is able to escape to another secret apartment in the building and all proof is gone.

Favorite Bahcelievler

In 2005 the Vice Squad teams uncovered 44 brothels in Istanbul. As a result of the raids, 158 Turkish prostitutes were caught. According to information given, the Bahcelievler neighborhood in Istanbul was an area heavy (in prostitution). Seven brothels were discovered in Bahcelievler and 32 prostitutes caught.
END TEXT.

18. Published by the Turkish Daily news on Saturday, February 4 and written by Gila Benmayor:

TITLE: If only we can free ourselves from this "Natasha" obsession.

BEGIN TEXT: Marielle Sander-Lindstrom is the Ankara representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The IOM was founded after World War II to help millions of people displaced as a result of the war. The organization's Ankara office was founded in 1991 after the first Gulf War. Since then, they have helped refugees from Iraq and Iran, coordinated aid to Afghanistan and helped millions of people. In our meeting with Marielle Sander-Lindstrom in Istanbul, she told me about a new project the organization has initiated with the help of the governments of the United States and Sweden.

The project is on "human trafficking."

Sander-Lindstrom, who worked at the organization's Moldova office, knows very well how human traffickers victimize Moldovan, Ukrainian and Belarusian women who want to earn money.

"The only option for a Moldovan woman living in rural regions, who has to earn money for her family, is to go overseas," she said. "She usually gets a passport through a friend of a friend and arrives in Turkey."

Unfortunately, Turkey, where the women come to work, is far from heaven, because the person who arranged for her to come to Turkey is usually a member of a human trafficking gang.

Consequently, as soon as she arrives in Turkey, her passport is taken away and she is forced to become a sex slave.

According to the statistics possessed by Sander-Lindstrom, women who undertook this voyage after putting trust in a friend's advice constitute 86 percent of the victims.

So, how can these women be saved from the clutches of human traffickers?

Turkey initiated a project last May that could set an example for the whole of Europe.

It set up a "157 Hotline" that can be called free of charge by women in these situations, so that they can be saved. Sander-Lindstrom noted an interesting fact about the calls made to the hotline.

Seventy-five percent of those who call the hotline are men who want to save the woman with whom they have had sexual relations.

In other words, Turkish men are compassionate.

They cannot accept a woman becoming a victim of human traffickers.

Documents on the "157 Hotline" are given to women entering Turkey from certain countries at border gates and airports.

Another campaign that has been initiated involves the children left behind by these victimized women, as one-third of the women who become victims are also mothers.

There are hundreds of children waiting to hear from their mothers back in their home villages in Moldova,

Ukraine and Belarus.

IOM teams went to these villages to interview the children.

In a clip shown by Sander-Lindstrom, some of the children said, "I want my mother back." They said it in Turkish and I have to say that it was very effective.

I cannot understand how certain papers still refer to these women as "Natasha," at a time when such a tragedy is so obviously taking place. END TEXT.

19. Published by the Turkish Daily News on Sunday, February 5:

TITLE: Turkey on offensive against trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: The Turkish government is accelerating efforts to change the widespread public perception on predominantly female victims of trafficking through a campaign launched in coordination with the Geneva-based International Office for Migration (IOM).

At the heart of the campaign lies the striking fact that one out of three women trafficked to Turkey are mothers with children.

"We think it is extremely important to articulate that," Allan Freedman, who coordinates counter-trafficking programs for the IOM Turkey office, told the Turkish Daily News.

"It is important because we know based on our own research and experience while working in Turkey that people often think that this is just about the individual. It is not. Trafficking takes place in a much broader and important context," he added. END TEXT.

10. Also published by the Turkish Daily News on Sunday, February 5:

TITLE: Profits from trafficking soar

BEGIN TEXT: Turkey is rapidly becoming one of the largest markets in the trafficking of women from the nearby former Soviet bloc who have been forced into prostitution, said a report released by the International Organization (sic) for Migration (IOM) at the same time when a campaign was launched last week. Profits from the illicit sex trade in Turkey are estimated to be about \$3.6 billion last year, according to the report.

About 5,000 women are believed to be working as sex slaves across Turkey. The prostitution networks get about \$150 per customer; each woman serves as many as 15 clients a day, said Marielle Sander-Lindstrom, chief of the IOM's Turkey office, during a news conference on Tuesday. "Women have no freedom of movement, no money for themselves."

"If they work 340 days a year, it is a multibillion-dollar business just in Turkey alone," she added. "That explains why the government is fighting against human trafficking."

Women are at greater risk for trafficking because poverty and social conditions in their home countries compel them to look for jobs abroad.

Social factors including alcoholism among spouses and family members, violence in the home and even sexual abuse have contributed to vulnerability and increased pressure on women, according to the IOM report.

More than half of the women who have been trafficked to Turkey come from Moldova and Ukraine, which have suffered severe economic downturns in the last decade. Economic growth in these key source countries is on the upswing, but their economies are only now emerging from the regional economic collapse and the divide between the rich and the poor persists with sizable populations living below the poverty line and earning less than \$2 per day.

Turkey is a top destination for trafficking because it is the most prosperous country when compared to other countries along the Black Sea coast and is a nation with good paying jobs. Around a third of the trafficked women in Turkey live in Istanbul, the country's commercial hub. About a quarter live in the Mediterranean resort of Antalya, underlining a close connection between trafficking and tourism.

In comments on the tremendous amount of money that has been made illegally in Turkey from human trafficking, Allan Freedman, project coordinator of the IOM Ankara office, said they did not know where that money is going.

"But it is likely going into other illegal activities. It is total speculation on my part because we do not know actually where that money is going. People say drugs, people say terrorism and weapons. It could be anything, but I want to stress that I do not know where that money is going, but we feel fairly confident that it is going into other illegal activities that are probably creating a destabilizing influence in the region and also possibly in Turkey," he added.

The findings show that many more challenges are to come and that Turkey will continue to play a critical role in the international campaign to combat the crime of human trafficking.

"We want to become a model country in counter-trafficking efforts," said Derya Kanbay from the Turkish Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

Kanbay said it was not possible for a single institution to fight against human trafficking and highlighted the significance of international cooperation, hoping that the efforts and cooperation against that crime would continue. END TEXT.

11. And also published by the Turkish Daily News on Sunday, February 5:

TITLE: "Have you seen my mother?" ask Moldovan kids to Turks

BEGIN TEXT: A commercial, featuring children asking, in broken Turkish, "Have you seen my mother?" started airing on Turkish television as of last week to underline the fact that an estimated one in three trafficked women in Turkey are mothers and also point out the human dimension of their plight.

The television advertisement constitutes the centerpiece of a public awareness campaign on human trafficking in Turkey, launched by the Turkish government in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The ad has been designed to tap into Turks' adulation of children and the value they give to family.

The commercial is focused on four children - aged between four and 14 - from the former Soviet Union in search of their mothers who have been trafficked to Turkey. The children were left behind in a village in Moldova and are waiting for their mothers to return.

"She promised she would come back, but I do not know where she is," one boy says in Turkish with a Slavic accent.

"I need my mother," says a small girl.

Authorities hope that the campaign will prompt more people, especially the women's clients, to inform authorities and help rescue the women.

Most of the women identified last year as victims of human trafficking were between the ages of 18 and 24. One-third were mothers, and many were either divorced or married to abusive spouses. They were brought here with the promises of jobs as waitresses or dancers that would help them support their children. They then have their passports confiscated and are kept as virtual prisoners.

"This project is a fantastic initiative to create an alliance against human trafficking," Marielle Sander-Lindstrom, chief of the IOM's Turkey office, told a press conference last week.

"Family and children are important. Turkey attaches importance to this issue. I am happy to be working here," she added.

Explaining the philosophy of the campaign and the new television commercial, Allan Freedman, who coordinates counter-trafficking programs for the Turkey office of IOM, said the goal of the campaign was to create dialogue and conversation within Turkey about what trafficking is about.

"The major goal of this campaign is that we want to create dialogue and conversation within Turkey about what trafficking is. The other goal is the fact that this is about families, children and individuals, so it

is much bigger than just a single person," he said.

The commercial that supports the campaign has media sponsors including Turkish broadcaster Kanal D, Star TV, film distributor FIDA FILM and the cinema company Sinefekt. Other official campaign sponsors include the airports in Istanbul, Trabzon, and Antalya, along with Ankara, Antalya, Izmir and Trabzon municipalities.

"It has been approved that the commercial will be on 26 channels in Turkey, so we are hoping to have a wide promotion of the campaign from print and television standpoint," he added. END TEXT.

12. Published by the Turkish Daily news on Sunday, February 5:

TITLE: Turkey builds up strategy to fight trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: Through a nationwide public information campaign launched last week in order to raise awareness of human trafficking in Turkey, the government is stepping up efforts to change the public perceptions of the predominantly female victims of human trafficking, a basic element in the fight against this "modern day slavery."

Turkey launched the awareness campaign on Tuesday in cooperation with a UN-affiliated agency, the Geneva-based International Office for Migration (IOM), hoping that more people will tip off authorities and help save people from forced prostitution or labor. The campaign focuses on the humanitarian dimension of human trafficking, that is to say, its impact on communities, families and particularly on the children of victims of human trafficking.

"Human trafficking is an international crime that destroys not only the individuals, but also families, communities and children," said Marielle Sander-Lindstrom, chief of the IOM's Turkey office, at a press conference during the promotion of the campaign and the Foreign Ministry.

Some 469 individuals were identified as victims of human trafficking in Turkey in 2005, but this number is believed to be just a fraction of the overall number of women trafficked, estimated to be as little as 10 percent of the overall caseload, according to a report released by the IOM last week as part of the campaign.

At the heart of the campaign lies the striking fact that one out of three women trafficked to Turkey are mothers with children.

"We think it is extremely important to articulate that. It is important because we know based on our own research and experience while working in Turkey that people often think this is just about the individual. It is not. Trafficking takes place in a much broader and important context. . . the context of families, the context of communities," Allan Freedman, who coordinates counter-trafficking programs for IOM Turkey office, told the Turkish Daily news.

There is a pretty common perception about trafficked women that mixes victims of human trafficking with willing prostitutes. Due to this confusion, traffickers are usually tried under criminal articles regulating prostitution and the trafficked women are deported instead of being provided with assistance and rehabilitation.

The existing misperception also hampers efforts in the fight against human trafficking, but the perception on this issue in Turkey, especially on the part of law enforcement authorities, has been rapidly changing over the past few years, mostly due to training provided to police and gendarmerie officials about facts and characteristics of human trafficking and how trafficking cases should be handled.

IOM's efforts, which are closely coordinated with the Turkish government, are bearing fruit. Turkey has come a long way in a short period of time and made great strides to combat this crime, raising public awareness and introducing legal provisions to punish traffickers.

"I think in Turkey there is always more work to be done on this issue, but at this point I think there is an increasing understanding of recognition on the part of law enforcement officials," Freedman said.

"Police and gendarmerie, particularly the gendarmerie, have a better and better understanding on what this is. We find when it was a year ago we had to do more

explaining. This year I think there is a broader recognition of what this problem is about," he said when asked whether law enforcement authorities were aware of the difference between a prostitute and a victim of human trafficking. Turkey is a destination country for women and girls trafficked to Turkey with the promise of jobs, but then are forced into prostitution. The vast majority of them come from the former Soviet Union, with 60 percent of all cases from two countries, Moldova and Ukraine, the IOM report says.

Women from the former Soviet bloc have long been viewed as willing workers in the prostitution industry in Turkey and all of them were stigmatized as "Natashas" in the eyes of the Turkish public, who has paid little attention to the difference between willing labor and trafficked persons forced into prostitution through ill-treatment and even torture. The IOM and the Turkish government have been working in cooperation since November 2004, when Turkey joined the organization, to raise public awareness with a view to giving the public an accurate picture of the reality, which authorities think would be an asset in counter-trafficking efforts.

A \$700,000 project coordinated by the Turkish government, sponsored by the U.S. government and implemented by the IOM, is the first major counter-trafficking program in Turkey. The latest awareness campaign is part of that broader project, whose key accomplishments include changing social misperceptions, rescuing a number of victims of human trafficking through a 24-hour hotline and opening of two shelters for trafficked women in Istanbul and Ankara.

"A prostitute does provide sex to a man and gets money for that. There is an element of choice. She is not coerced; she is not forced. Trafficking is just the opposite. Women are transported, most often across international borders, brought to Turkey and forced to work and provide sex to men. They can also be forced to provide labor. That is the issue," Freedman said in an explanation on the difference between a prostitute and a victim of human trafficking.

"Someone who is trafficked is enslaved. They are doing something against their will. They are being forced by another individual to perform an act, whether it is sex or whether it is removal of their organs, for example. They are doing something against their own free will."

"The police and gendarmerie are identifying more and more victims of trafficking in Turkey. That is a very positive outcome because it means the more victims of trafficking we identify, then the more people get into the system, the more people we can rehabilitate and the more people that have a chance for recovery. That is a very positive and tangible commitment on the part of the Turkish government," Freedman said.

Authorities are also proud of the success of the 24-hour hotline, staffed by mostly Russian-speaking operators, in the rescue of victims of human trafficking. Most of the calls made have come from clients of the women who wanted to help them, which, IOM officials say, is another sign of increasing perception on women lured by traffickers to Turkey.

In 2005, some 52 trafficked individuals were rescued through the 157 helpline for rescue and assistance. Just one quarter of all rescue requests came from victims of human trafficking. Clients and friends are playing a pivotal role in rescue and assistance of trafficked persons, according to the IOM report.

"Seventy-four percent of the calls that we get to the hotline have come from actual clients and friends of the victims of human trafficking," Freedman said. "Not only the clients arrange rescue for the victims, but also the women themselves are doing a tremendous job in calling us."

Asked whether the hotline would be working when the project, due to be finished in mid-2006, was over, he said, "The helpline is funded by two sources right now. It is funded by the U.S. government and also by the Swedish Independent Development Agency (SIDA). We are looking for additional support and we are trying to mobilize additional resources to keep it going. I am quite confident that we will get support as it has been successful." END TEXT.

TITLE: Those who call the 157 hotline are mostly Turkish men who want to save the woman they were with.

BEGIN TEXT: Gila Benmayor interviewed IOM's Chief of Mission, Marielle Sander-Lindstrom, who said that 75 percent of the callers to the 157 hotline were Turkish men who had earlier been with the foreign woman and wanted to save her from human traffickers. To prevent this, the pimps reportedly do not allow men to be with a foreign woman with his cell phone on.

Benmayor wrote that Sander-Lindstrom has been working in Turkey since 2004, and she has two responsibilities: 1) to support Turkey in harmonizing its laws with European immigration legislation; and 2) to introduce programs to fight against human trafficking.

She explained the difference between human smuggling and trafficking.

She referred to the IOM report on human trafficking trends in 2005 in Turkey and stressed that one of every three women who were victims of trafficking was a mother. In other words, their goal was to create a better future for their kids.

Sander-Lindstrom said that compared to countries in the north, Turkey is economically better off and thus women, particularly from the former Soviet Union, become victims of human trafficking.

She lived in Moldova for many years before arriving in Turkey. She said that the poverty rate in Moldova was 64 percent. Like in other former Soviet republics, women are responsible for bringing money to the family. Men, if they are around, are usually unemployed and alcoholic. Many women in Moldovan villages dream about coming to Turkey to work. When she finds someone to send her here, she has to turn over her passport, and when she arrives in Turkey she realizes that she was deceived. According to the IOM report, 86 percent of those who fell into traffickers' traps were deceived with similar tactics.

Sander-Lindstrom noted that human traffickers spend around \$500-600 per woman. When they force a woman into prostitution, human traffickers earn \$150 for each client she has. Each woman averages about 15 men a day, making \$2,250. If she works 340 days a year, this means \$765,000 a year. In short, for every \$500 one invests, he gets back \$765,000.

The IOM determined that 469 women fell into the web of human traffickers. Sander-Lindstrom calculated that human traffickers could earn \$3.6 million from these 469 women. She guesses that the actual figure is tenfold higher.

Most of the women are between the ages of 18-24; some are over 30 years of age. Even if they are saved, these women cannot tell their families what happened to them since they are from conservative families. If they do, they would be expelled from the family. Since they cannot warn others, human traffickers continue to trick women.

The IOM opened a 157 hotline. Benmayor talked about the posters, TV ads and booklets. END TEXT.

14. Published by Hurriyet on Monday, February 6:

TITLE: Vatican: Might be the Prostitution Mafia

BEGIN TEXT: The Vatican Representative in Istanbul, Monsignor Georges Marovic, said that the murder of Priest Andrea Sentore might have been by the prostitution mafia. Monsignor Marovic, who is in charge of two churches in the Black Sea region, said, "Our priest was in Trabzon and he was trying to save very poor women who came from Moldova or old Russian countries and who fell into the mire of prostitution. He was trying to save them. The prostitution mafia may have murdered him."

The Italian media gave prime coverage to the murder of Priest Sentore. It was reported that the murder might have been because of the crisis over the cartoons and the reaction of the 16-year-old (suspect). The national Italian news agency ANSA, said that the Sentore murder was probably a result of the cartoon crisis.

Cicek: We condemn (this). Minister of Justice and Government Spokesman, Cemil Cicek, in strongly condemning the murder said, "Whatever the reason may be and for what purpose, we cannot view it as reasonable

or lawful." Minister of Interior Abdulkadir Aksu said that there was no excuse and violence would not be tolerated, and the matter would be investigated from every direction. END TEXT.

15. Reported by Hurriyet on Wednesday, February 8:

TITLE: Prostitution with fake identification

BEGIN TEXT: In a joint raid on a house on Turkeli Avenue in the Eminonu neighborhood by the Istanbul Security Directorate's Office of Public Order and the Foreigners' Section, Moldovan V.C., Kyrgyz citizens D.A., G.K., D.C. and I.M., alleged to have practiced prostitution, and Mustafa A., who allegedly forced the women into prostitution, were taken into custody. An unlicensed gun was found in the house. D.C., I.M and V.C. had become Turkish citizens through marriage. D.A. and G.K. had fake residence permits. The foreign women were sent to Zuhrevi Hospital and Mustafa A. was charged with trafficking and arrested. END TEXT.

16. Published by Milliyet on Thursday, February 9:

TITLE: Protocol with Moldova on Human Trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: A protocol was signed to prevent Moldovan women from being trapped in the web of human trafficking in Turkey. The statement was made following a meeting between Moldovan Foreign Minister Andrei Stratan and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul. The European Union wants Turkey to support the relationship. Stratan said, "Turkey has gained a lot of experience with their relationship with the EU. Turkey, especially, has a lot of experience in political dialogue. You (Turkey) have realized many important reforms. Moldova will benefit from Turkey's integration and experience with the EU." END TEXT.

17. Published by the Turkish Weekly and the New Anatolian on Thursday, February 9:

TITLE: Turkey and Moldova join forces to boost relations, fight human trafficking

BEGIN TEXT: Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul and his Moldovan counterpart, Andrei Stratan, agreed to further develop bilateral relations and find new strategies to fight human trafficking.

Touching on the cartoon crisis, Gul stressed the necessity of freedom of the press in society, but said that it should never infringe on religious beliefs.

Meeting Wednesday with his visiting Moldovan counterpart, Andrei Stratan, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul and his guest agreed to further develop relations and find new strategies to fight human trafficking.

Gul praised the bilateral relations between Turkey and Moldova as "unproblematic," and added that there are great opportunities to boost them. The two foreign ministers also signed an agreement enabling them to exchange land to build embassies and to fight human trafficking.

Gul hailed the two documents that were signed yesterday as proof of existing political will and willingness of the two parties to improve relations.

Gul expressed Turkey's support for the rapprochement between Moldova, the EU and NATO, underlining that Turkey also encouraged Moldova to take advantage of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) and similar mechanisms within NATO.

The Turkish foreign minister also stressed the importance attached by Turkey to cooperation with Moldova, particularly within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

He also thanked Stratan for Moldova's support of Turkey's candidacy for a temporary seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2009-2010 period.

Visiting Moldovan Foreign Minister Stratan, for his part, touched on the Cyprus problem during the joint press conference and said, "I believe that a solution will eventually be reached and that a settlement on Cyprus will be in the best interests of the region and the EU."

Stratan stated that they are seeking ways to develop economic relations with Turkey and invited Turkish businessmen to visit Moldova in order to enhance bilateral commercial relations. END TEXT.

118. Published by the Turkish Daily News on Thursday, February 9:

TITLE: Moldova looks for Turkish support on EU integration

BEGIN TEXT: Turkey, a candidate to join the EU, has pledged to support Moldova's aspirations to integrate with the 25-nation bloc, the former Soviet republic's visiting foreign minister said on Wednesday.

"Turkey has acquired tremendous experience in its relations with the EU, especially regarding an effective political dialogue, since it declared its will to become a full member," Moldovan Foreign Minister Andrei Stratan was quoted as saying after talks with his Turkish counterpart, Abdullah Gul, in Ankara. "Turkey's achievements in this direction are well known by other countries."

Turkey, which has already completed pre-talks screening on some of the 35 negotiating chapters, anticipates the opening of actual accession talks with the EU soon. The talks are not expected to be completed before at least a decade.

Foreign Minister Gul said Moldova has been striving for closer ties with NATO and the EU over the past years, an endeavor which, he said, Turkey closely followed and supported. Gul added that Turkey was encouraging Moldova to benefit from NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) program.

The Moldovan side also expressed support for Turkey's bid to win a seat at the 15-member UN Security Council later this decade.

Fight against human trafficking:

Stratan, who was also received by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday, discussed bilateral and regional cooperation with Turkish government officials.

The two countries signed a protocol to exchange land and buildings for diplomatic missions and to cooperate in the fight against human trafficking.

Turkey, a transit and destination country for victims of human trafficking from the former Soviet Union, has introduced legislation and public awareness campaigns to fight the trafficking of individuals, primarily women, for sexual exploitation.

The second largest number of victims of human trafficking comes from Moldova, with the Ukraine coming highest on the list. END TEXT.

119. Reported by the Gulf Times on Thursday, February 9:

TITLE: European ministers eye-to-eye on crime

BEGIN TEXT: Loutraki, Greece: The Justice and Interior ministers of southeastern European countries agreed to strengthen trans-border cooperation on combating organized crime, human trafficking and terrorism yesterday after a two-day meeting at a resort near Athens.

Government ministers from Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina - all part of the EU's Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe - and Turkey agreed to enhance their cooperation with the European Law Enforcement Organization (Europol).

They also plan to adapt their countries' laws in accordance with European Union and Council of Europe norms.

The ministers, meeting at Loutraki, 80 km southwest of Athens, also agreed to promote the establishment of working groups between prosecutors specialized in organized crime and police officers investigating such cases, both at national levels and among southeastern European countries.

Officials also agreed to strengthen the training of specialized police units dealing with organized crime and cooperating with European Union's specialized institutions in fighting corruption and organized crime. "Transnational crime does not respect any borders, and, therefore, cross-border regional cooperation at all levels is necessary to combat it effectively," said Erhard Busek, special coordinator of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe.

In recent years, the countries of southeastern Europe have been faced with increasing problems associated with cross-border organized crime, drug and human trafficking, and the smuggling of nuclear material and weapons of mass destruction.

Trafficking has changed nature in recent years and is increasingly manifested by a lack of physical violence and coercion and frequently extends to labor market exploitation.

"The problem is that while the interior ministers of each nation represented here believe that the world ends at their borders - criminals have no border," said Busek.

"To be effective, there must be cross-border cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking and criminal cases," he added.

Turkish Justice Minister Cemil Cicek said that much of the problem could be solved by establishing an efficient extradition system between the countries of southeastern Europe and by recognizing abuses in the asylum program.

"There have been many cases where criminals claim they are asylum seekers and the countries where they are seeking asylum know this, but they chose to turn a blind eye. This must change - there must be more cooperation," said Cicek. According to Cicek, trans-border cooperation could also help the fight against terrorism. "What we have been finding is that terrorist organizations are also the operators of organized crime because this is one way to finance their activities," he said.

The European Commission, Europol, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime also participated at the two-day summit. END TEXT.

120. Published by Hurriyet on Friday, February 10:

TITLE: Mothers are the victims of human traffickers

BEGIN TEXT: It was reported that one out of every three victims of trafficking in Turkey is a mother. Selin Arslan, Spokesman for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said that victims of trafficking have usually been threatened with death and are forced into either being sold to men for sexual purposes or forced into some type of labor. Arslan, in saying that one of every three victims of trafficking in Turkey is a mother, said, "Women, in order to feed, clothe and educate their children, are targets of human traffickers who give them false jobs and make them into sexual slaves." END TEXT.

121. Published by Milliyet on Saturday, February 11:

TITLE: "Bring back my mother who is in Turkey." The International Organization for Migration selected this slogan for their new campaign to bring attention to the victims of women traffickers in Turkey.

BEGIN TEXT: According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), every year 5,000 women are forced into prostitution in Turkey, and to bring the matter in front of the world has started a series of campaigns. IOM, which claims that 60 percent of these women are from Ukraine and Moldova, two-thirds of them are between the ages of 18 and 24 and are mothers, announced that the campaign is entitled, "Please bring my mother, who is in Turkey, back."

They reached 469 women.

Marielle Sander-Lindstrom, Chief of Mission of IOM Turkey, said, "The number of women forced into prostitution in Turkey is alarming." Lindstrom said that the women from Eastern Europe who fall into the hands of the mafia as they try to find work in Turkey are mostly mothers who have left their children in their home countries.

Lindstrom reported that in 2005, 469 women in Turkey were rescued from the hands of traffickers and returned to their families, and that every year nearly 5,000 women are forced into prostitution.

"Call and let us save you"

Moldovan Foreign Minister Andrei Stratan stated that his country was fighting against the mafia that are

duping women into coming to Turkey and then forcing them into prostitution. Stratan, through the Milliyet newspaper, encouraged his citizens who have become sex slaves to, "call and let us save you." Stratan, speaking to Moldovan women who had fallen into the hands of the prostitution mafia due to economic conditions said, "Turkey and Moldova are ready to help you. All you have to do is to contact the diplomatic representatives in Turkey." END TEXT.

122. Published by Vatan on Saturday, February 11:

TITLE: Have you seen my mother?

BEGIN TEXT: The report of the IOM one more time demonstrated that there was a dangerous increase in the number of women slaves who were forced into prostitution. According to this report, each year 5,000 women were forced into prostitution. Sixty percent of them are Ukrainian and Moldovan. Two-thirds are between 18-24 years of age and they are mothers. When the IOM determined this sad fact, it inaugurated a campaign entitled, "Have You Seen My Mother?" The aim of the campaign is to save women who arrive in Turkey to build a future for their kids from the hands of the Mafia. For the campaign, a short film was shot with UN support. The film, which will be air on TVs and in movie theatres, is focusing attention on the plight of the mother and child. Four Moldovan children, whose mothers were kidnapped in Turkey, played in the film. They ask, "Have you seen my mother?" IOM Chief Marielle Sander-Lindstrom said that they determined 469 women were victims of human trafficking in Turkey in 2005. She noted that the actual figure should be ten times higher since these were only the victims they could identify. Lindstrom, who spoke to the Italian Novosti Agency, noted that the percentage of women slaves who were forced into sex was worrisome. Authorities noted that victims were saved mostly by their clients. Women who try to run away from the prostitution mafia are being threatened. Last year a girl who was born in 1974 in Belarus fell and died as she tried to flee from the bathroom window in Istanbul. Another 19-year-old woman slave jumped off the balcony and remained paralyzed.

Ninety-four percent of women who are forced into labor in Turkey are exposed to sexual exploitation. The reproductive organs of one-third of these women are damaged, so they face the danger of never becoming a mother again. Sixty percent of the women who were forced into prostitution are Moldovan and Ukrainian. The rest are from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Romania.

Some of the striking statistics on Turkey in the IOM report are:

- In 2005 the number of human trafficking victims in Turkey was 469.
- The prostitution mafia earns \$150 per client and forced women to be with approximately 15 men a day.
- The mafia earned \$2,250 a day and \$765,000 per victim.
- Although we determined 469 incidents, the actual number should be ten times higher.
- The total amount of money involved in trafficking women in Turkey is \$3.6 billion annually.

Two victims gave their testimonies to the IOM:

1) I was born in Moldova in 1974. I have two kids. I had financial hardships and a girlfriend told me I could earn a lot of money as a dancer in Turkey. Earlier I worked in Slovenia as a dancer. I was planning to work in Turkey for a while, earn some money and then go back home. My friend who offered me the job in Turkey met all my expenses for the plane ticket and passport. I was told that a person called Veysel would meet me at the Antalya Airport. When I landed, I thought that we were going to the workplace, but Veysel took me to a village house. He took away my passport and I was beaten and threatened at gunpoint. I called the human trafficking hotline in Moscow from the hotel that I was taken. I was asked to call the 157 hotline in Turkey. I was saved when I called 157.

2) I arrived for the first time when I was 18 to serve as a nanny. I met those who returned from Turkey with jewelry and pricey clothing. Then I had a daughter who was 19 months old. I was living with my brother and mother. Our living standards were very bad. I had to work. I arrived in Istanbul in September 2004. After serving as a nanny for one week, they told me that I owed them \$1500 for the travel expenses and forced me into prostitution to pay the debt. I managed to run away. But I had to feed my baby. I trusted a neighbor in August 2005, and I returned to Turkey. I fell into

the trap again. The man who met me at the airport took me to a hotel and forced me into prostitution. They knew my address and family in Moldova. They threatened me by saying that if I resisted, they would hurt my daughter, brother and mother. I was forced to be with five to six people a day. END TEXT.

123. Reported by Zaman Online and The Anatolian Times on Monday, February 13:

TITLE: Screening for Justice, Liberty and Security Begins

BEGIN TEXT: Turkish and European Union (EU) officials have begun to hold talks on the screening of justice, liberty and security issues as part of Turkey's EU membership process.

The Turkish delegation, led by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ahmet Acet, will discuss the protection of immigrant rights, rights of asylum seekers, judicial cooperation, customs gates, human trafficking and drug smuggling, and police organization with their EU counterparts during the three-day talks.

Screening of the justice, liberty and security chapter is expected to be successful as Turkey's recent administrative and judicial reforms brought its law in line with EU regulations.

The screening process will go ahead on February 16 with an orientation meeting on economic and financial policy. END TEXT.

124. Published by Cumhuriyet on Wednesday, February 15:

TITLE: Prostitution Operation

BEGIN TEXT: Seven women accused of practicing prostitution in Bakirkoy were taken into custody. Foreigner Division police, who organized the operation in Atakoy, reported that the women underwent health checks and were found to be carriers of a variety of communicable diseases. The women, after being questioned, will be deported. END TEXT.

WILSON